

9/7/16
Week 37: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Beth Moore: The Practical Walk of Freedom, #1

James: Thank all of you. I'm James Robison, by the way, and my wife, Betty welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Our audience, they always, they love God. Sometimes they come just to hear a special guest but many of them just faithfully pray for us which means they're praying for you. We really do thank you for joining us today.

Beth Moore is teaching. She is beginning a new series. Let me tell you the title of it: "The Practical – "That sounds like everyday to me – "The Practical Walk of Freedom." I don't know that she said the simple walk but the practical.

You know what she calls it? She is going to get right into this. A stronghold is any trade-off for God. Anything you substitute for God that is a stronghold; it's got a grip on you.

Don't you love Beth Moore? Would you welcome Beth Moore? I'm so glad she is with us. Thank you.

Begin video clip

Beth: We have already, a number of us, been together through the series, the first half of the series on freedom, "The Magnificent Miracle of Freedom." Now we're getting into the practicality. But I want to remind you of a couple of definitions, if you were with us and I want to tell them to you if you weren't. Here's what we talked about: Slavery. Here's how we're defining slavery: Being mastered by anything or anyone besides the one who sets us free. It is Christ who sets us free.

So what we're learning is that freedom means that we don't have any area of sin ruling over us. It doesn't mean I don't sin. Being free in Christ doesn't mean that I have been made perfect. What it means is that for any one of us walking in freedom, we do not have an area of sin that is reigning and ruling over us -- that's wearing a crown over our lives. So freedom is no sin or deceit having dominion over me.

Now I want to describe and define a stronghold. I want to get it in the most basic possible terms when it says... I'm in verse four of Second Corinthians chapter 10:

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Destroy them! Some of your translations say "demolish" and I love that word! -- Demolish strongholds. A stronghold in its most basic form is any trade-off for God -- any trade-off for God. That's a stronghold: Anything that's come up to rule or to reign; anything that has risen up in our lives bigger than God and bigger than the knowledge of God; anything that's gotten into our imaginations where it's gotten so big.

Just think in terms of unforgiveness. When we fixate -- anybody ever had just a stronghold of unforgiveness where it just goes through your mind over and over and over again? An event in our past; it could have been 25 years ago but it becomes a stronghold when it is so risen up in our minds, gotten such a preoccupation from us in our thinking that we are just subject to it over and over and over again and it becomes that trade-off for that which is ruling over us. It becomes a god to us.

I want you to see where it talks about the weapons of our warfare. Notice in verse three when it says: *We are not waging war according to the flesh*. That word *war* or *warfare* in some of your translations, that's the most interesting word. I want to spell it to you in the Greek, in the original language. This is going to be if any of you were like Greek nerds, you'll like this. This will be the lexical form of the word. But I want you to write it down even though you may be thinking, what does that have to do with the English? Well, a lot. I want you to see it.

So the word *warfare* or *war* right here in the E.S.V. is spelled this way in the Greek lexical form. Are you ready? S-T-R-A-T-E-I-A. I want to spell it again. S-T-R-A-T-E-I-A. What word do you see? Strategy -- strategy! It is a plan of attack. It is a military campaign.

Now here's what I want to say to you as we start this practical application of our freedom. We have house plans, we have all sorts of vacation plans, we have business plans, we have all sorts of plans. We plan where we're going to eat. We plan where we're going to go and do business. We make all of these plans but I ask you today, do you have a plan of attack against demonic principalities that come against the believer? Because we've got a plan for everything else but what the Word of God is telling us here is that what we need is a plan. There is a strategy for us being victorious in our warfare.

I promise you because it is talking about the warfare we're into with the enemy and with things that just rise up in our imagination and take over our thinking. I want to promise you that the enemy has a plan. He has a plan. We know that. In fact, the word in Ephesians chapter six, when it's talking about putting on the whole armor of God because of the schemes of the evil

one, that word *schemes* in the Greek is *methodeia*, which means method. He's got a method to his madness. We have got to have a plan of attack, a strategy for attack.

So here's what I want to tell you. You're very close to it. Leave something here in Second Corinthians because we'll be there continually. But go to First Corinthians just a moment to chapter nine. Flip there for just a moment.

We're thinking strategies, strategies for our warfare. They can't be of flesh and blood; they have to be things that are fought in the spiritual realm, things of the spirit.

First Corinthians chapter nine: I want to read verses 25 and 26 to you. They say this. This is the Apostle Paul writing. And he says:

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

It says in verse 26, this is key!

So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control.

I'm reading 27:

Lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Look at that again:

I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

The first part of our strategy has to be this. We have to aim. We have to aim! If you and I want to be victorious over strongholds that have come up against us, what we have to understand is this. You may struggle with one thing and I struggle with another. We talk to another person sitting at our table she deals with something altogether different; and her husband something entirely different from her.

That's the way of warfare because our bait, what the enemy is doing with us is seeing if he can set our bait in such a way that we would be vulnerable. So he's looking for what we're going to bite. That's why my temptations are going to be different than yours. The kinds of things I'm going to go for and be most tempted toward are going to be different than yours. So we have to come up with a strategy, some kind of plan. We've got to aim!

Here's what I want to tell you. I want to encourage you that no matter what you are going through, what comes upon you to try to defeat you, whatever it is, you can find scriptures that speak to it. And I mean start going on a hunt. The hunt itself will bless you, and it will bless me because we are in the scriptures. But let me tell you the Word of God is full of scriptures that speak to very specific things. If they don't get really specific they can be enough in that category to where it still becomes very empowering to you.

Let me throw out a couple of examples. You want to be able to go to the Word of God if where your area of attack or defeat is in sexual temptation, if it is in paralyzing fear, if it is in the intimidation or weakness. Say it is in financial collapse of some kind, business dealings. Maybe your marriage is going like belly up. You need so much help in your child-raising. Maybe you're a teacher or you're a leader. I'm telling you, whatever it is there are scriptures that speak to those exact kinds of temptations, those exact kinds of challenges. You can find them.

One of the best places to look in the Old Testament is to just start going through Psalms and Proverbs. Start looking for the way that the Psalmist is going to pray and call out to God. Start looking for the way Proverbs talks about how to go through times of temptation and times of seduction.

Here's what we're going to do. Whenever we pull together this scripture and prayer it is like we've pulled together two sticks of dynamite and we have tied them together and we have lit them by the Holy Spirit. Is anybody stepping in that with me? Nothing is more powerful! Nothing is more powerful than praying the scriptures.

Now if you ask me today, because what I'm doing now, listen. Go to other teachers. Go to other people that have gone through these kinds of things and really been in the pages of scriptures about what has worked with them to bring them victory. I can only tell you my story. They can tell you theirs. Go and find out. Interview people and ask them.

But I'm going to tell you my story because for me, if somebody asked me today, do you always pray scriptures? No, I don't always pray any way. I pray all sorts of different ways. I talk conversationally. Other times -- yesterday morning when I got up -- one of my habits is that I get up and pretty well, I turn on the coffee pot and pretty well right then I'm going to just go face down on the floor; that's just my thing with him. It just starts right there. And for whatever reason I went into the Lord's Prayer. I have not said the Lord's Prayer in months but I did yesterday morning. And then I just went into my regular prayers.

I don't pray a certain way any time, I just pray -- I just pray. Sometimes I journal. Sometimes I'm up on my feet. It is whatever -- it is a relationship. It is a living breathing thing just like you do.

But if I am fighting something that is just hellacious, if I know the enemy is in the thing, if he is getting victory, this is going to be my way of doing it every time. When I know I am getting defeated, when I know he is getting the upper hand or let me tell you another reason I might do it, if it is getting long -- if it's getting long. If it's been years now that you've been praying for that person, years now that you've been praying over that matter then what happens is this.

When we pull the scriptures into it we are rolling the burden over on the scriptures. We're not just having to come up with our own words, we now have the verbiage that has already been preapproved. I need somebody to get excited with me. -- Preapproved in the scriptures.

Do we need an example? Let's get one. Turn with me to Psalm 18. Let's just throw this one out real quickly. [Pages turning] I'm not even going to go to 18 yet. You go to 18 because I'm heading your direction but I'm seeing something on the page as I get there so I want to give you a perfect example.

Okay, here recently Keith was out of town. Our alarm was not working and none of my dogs were home. I just live out in the country and so I usually have all of those things and we don't ever have a time when the alarm doesn't work and all of that. So I just was in that situation.

So I opened my Bible to Psalm four and it says at the very end of Psalm four in verse eight:

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Anybody get what I'm saying to them? Because that's what I needed that night; I wanted to lie down and go to sleep in peace and I did! I did! But I wanted to have that assurance in my heart. I just laid it out open on my bed because I thought, in case the enemy needs to see.

[Laughter]

I have to tell y'all something else. I don't think I've ever told this at *LIFE Today* before but one of the things I'll do at a conference is that I leave my Bible open when I get real sleepy, like if I've taught all Friday evening and I have to teach on Saturday morning and I'm not going to get a lot of sleep. It is just going to be about six hours. But I'll leave my notes open and my Bible open in case the Lord needs to work on it while I'm asleep because I'm exhausted here. You don't even need a wink of sleep! I'm so tired! And I'm going to get up in the morning and if you've got anything to tell me on it, just do! You know what I'm saying?

So I just laid this out and I slept -- I slept. Of course, it is not a genie in a bottle but I'm telling you, it is a powerful thing -- it is a powerful thing!

Let me go to Psalm 18. I want you to look at some of this because listen, this is what I'm talking about here. Look, if this doesn't do it for you -- I'm going to go to the very first verse:

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

You know what I'd start saying right there? Because by the time I'm getting hit with warfare, I'm starting to talk out loud. Because the enemy can -- I don't believe that the Bible supports any thought whatsoever that the enemy can read our minds. We are sealed unto the day of our redemption -- sealed! So when we are born again, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. We are sealed. The Holy Spirit is not leaving and nothing else is getting in. But he knows us so well and he's been around man so long, he knows how to tailor make our temptations.

But if I'm having a difficult time with him, I want to make sure he hears me. Anybody? So that's when I'm probably not just going to journal. That's when I'm probably going to get up on my feet and I'm going to get up early in the morning when nobody else is up. I'm going to start strutting across the floor and going, "My God is my deliverer and you need to know my God is my deliverer!"

I love this! Listen how this goes. It says in verse four:

The cords of death encompass me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

v. 6 And in my distress I called upon the Lord; to my god I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

I want you to hear as it says that God came in such mercy.

Look in verse 16:

He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support.

I love the verse that says in verse 19:

He brought me out to a broad place: He rescued me, because he delighted in me.

Try that on!

If our prayer lives are going to be tantamount to "Lord, help us and bless us!" That's good. I believe that when we are just out of words, there is nothing more powerful than "God, help me!"

But what Paul is talking about is taking aim. He said, "I'm not beating the air. I'm looking at exactly what the problem is. This -- I have got hatred in my heart to someone. I've got unforgiveness in my heart to someone. I need to attack that thing. This is the target. That is where I am going to fight my battle right there." Aim -- take aim!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! Father, would you help everybody to attack anything that hinders our walk, our ability to hear; and would you give us the grace that we've received in such an overwhelming force that we extend it to others? And don't let any unforgiveness or root of bitterness rise up in any way; in Jesus' name.

I want to thank you for tuning in not only to *LIFE Today* every day but *Wednesdays in the Word* to just get into the word and we use on Wednesdays, unless I share or some of our family share, we have incredibly gifted women teachers. I'm telling you, they are a tremendous blessing.

That doesn't mean that we would never bring, say someone else in as a voice of wisdom that happens to be a man. Believe it or not there are a few. We can find some. But just the very fact that you are watching and wanting to get into the word and get the word in you, that's a real encouragement to us because we know the importance of it.

Now we're about to do together what you tell us gives you as great a joy as anything you do. Not only as it relates to *LIFE Today* and what outreaches of *Life* do but you understand the

significance of it because it is real easy to see, it is really easy to identify with. So I want you to just go with me and Betty and I want you to look in on a situation that we really not only have the answer for, we are the answer. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: With your help *LIFE Outreach* has drilled over 5,000 water wells in villages around the world for children in need. But the sad reality is that many still lack access to clean and safe drinking water. Out of desperation some people have dug their own wells to try and quench their thirst.

James: Here is a well right here for a family, it's a hand dug well. They've got a container like this that they lower down into the well. Again, you look at this water and it looks pretty clean but it's actually got sewage in it.

Announcer: The problem with these hand dug wells is that they're exposed to outside contaminants which threaten their very lives. The proven solution is to drill a well that's sealed off from this contamination but it can't be implemented without your help.

Betty: I would not want to give this dirty water to our beloved little pet, Princess. They drink it because it's all that they have. You know as a mother I want to fix it right now but we can't do it by ourselves. We need your help to join with others and let's give these people some fresh water; to give them a chance to watch their children grow up.

Announcer: Clean water is more than a luxury. Clean water is life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You just can't imagine what I consider the joy of being able to show people a situation that love is the remedy for. Some say, "Well, let's just pray." No, no! They've been praying. Let's be the answer to prayer. See, they want clean water. You talked about not wanting to give that water to our pet, Princess, our little dachshund. So what do you want our viewers to do?

Betty: This is something that's a big problem to them. But it's an easy problem to solve for us if we join together and we drill these water wells; and the difference they can make for a lifetime for these people! They can go to a place -- a mother doesn't have to worry about giving

her babies the diseased water because you see, they have to have water. They will drink the diseased water if that's the only source they have. We want to give them a choice.

I can guarantee you, we drill the water wells and that's the choice they're going to make. They're going to go to those wells for water because they know it brings life to their children. So please join with us. Every time we issue a need to you, you bless us by reaching out and joining with us and we make a difference. Together we can.

James: Well, I tell you what. When you think about just a cup of water and we're actually -- he says, Jesus, "You give a cup of water, you won't lose your reward." I always try to remind all of you, the reward is not something we get in return. The reward is knowing we've done the will of God, and the will of God so blesses people; that's our reward. We just rejoice in being a blessing. That in itself is blessing enough.

But we're going to send these little coffee mugs to those of you who just make a gift because we just want to say, "Here are the Promises of God." We want to remind you of those.

But here's what's going to happen. When we drill those wells they're going to receive the message of God's love in Christ because they've already seen love in action. They've seen the demonstration of it. We're going to talk about the water of life because we've provided Water for Life.

It's real easy to believe the story and the message of love in action. So here's what we want to ask you to do. It's very serious. We want to ask you to participate at some level to drill and it's still this cost which is quite miraculous. Sometimes a drop in petroleum makes the costs of doing things a little less. The average cost of a well is still \$4800. Some of you will drill a well, individually or as a couple, sometimes a small business, sometimes a church or a Bible study group.

Many of you cannot do that. You might be able to do \$1200 or \$2400 and pray one other person joins you or three join you and we've got a well. Or think about this now, this is the way most of the support comes. We've broken it down. A gift of \$48 will give 10 people water the rest of their life. \$144, there's a level you can participate, 30 people water the rest of their life. So at what level can you help?

And then there's one other thing and this is a biggie. The missionaries have told us, "We've got to have one more drilling rig, \$380,000." I want to talk about this as a side note. Wouldn't it be wonderful if 380 people today gave \$1,000? Or what about several people giving \$10,000? There may be someone watching today who can do far more than that. Now wait a minute. If you can, know that if it is on your heart then it fits in the purpose of God so do it. And I believe

you will. But most of the support is going to come one well at a time, one \$48 gift with another and another and we've got a well.

We have some gifts to bless you with. We're going to send them to you to bless you but you just know that you're giving the greatest gift of all, you're sharing life. Thank you for doing it. LifeToday.org -- go online, take your bankcard or dial the number. Take your bankcard, use it like a check, the way you should always use it. Thank you for doing that. God bless you.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children are forced to make a dreadful choice: Drink polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision!

The good news is there is a solution: Mission: Water for Life is one of the most proven demonstrations of God's love today.

Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today you can help drill 500 water wells in remote villages in over 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. And \$144 will help provide fresh water for 30 people for a lifetime!

Additionally, just over \$378,000 is needed to replace an old and failing drilling rig in Africa. Please consider an additional gift of \$100 or more to get a desperately needed new rig in place as soon as possible.

With your gift we'll send you The Stream, a powerful new book by James Robison that charts a clear path for your personal revival and a spiritual revolution.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Promises of God" coffee mugs.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We sure do thank you for your help. Betty, how do you like the new "Promises of God" mugs?

Betty: I like that! I like the size of that mug. It's nice.

James: And we like the other ones. We really didn't have a problem with them. Everybody seemed to enjoy them. People would say, "Where do you get those?" But some of you said, "We'd like to have this other kind too." You ask you receive. You have not because you ask not.

So thank you for giving to help us give water. Get the book. We're sending it to you to say thank you. But get everybody you know to get a copy and get everybody in your church to read it and then let's start learning, understanding the times, and let's get active.

Thank all of you for coming. Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*.